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ASSIGNMENT TITTLE: FORMS OF WRITING

QUESTION: WRITE A REPORT OF NOT MORE THAN TWO PAGES ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIA.

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) China office had the first case of a previously unknown virus behind a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in Eastern China with a population of over 11 million. What started as an epidemic mainly limited to China has now become a truly global pandemic. There have now been over 2,165,500 confirmed cases and 14r5, 705 and counting deaths. The disease appears to have originated from Wuhan seafood market where wild animals, including marmots, birds, rabbits, bats and snakes, are traded illegally. Coronavirus also formerly called the covid-19 virus, is to jump from animal to humans, so it’s thought that the first people infected with the disease- a group primarily made up of stallholders from the seafood market- contracted it from contact with animals. The hunt for the animal source of covid-19 is still unknown, although there are some strong contenders. A team of virology released a detailed paper showing that the new coronaviruses’ genetic makeup is 96 per cent identical to that of coronavirus found in bats, while a study published on March 26 argues that genetic sequences of coronavirus in pangolins are between 88.5 and 92.4 per cent similar to the human virus.

Coronaviruses are large group of viruses that are known to infect both humans and animals, and in humans cause a respiratory illness that range from common colds to much more serious infections. The most well- known case of a coronavirus epidemic was Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome ( Sars), which, after first being detected in southern China in 2002, went on to affect 26 countries and resulted in more than 8,000 cases and 774 deaths. China felt the initial burnt of the covid-19 epidemic. At the peak of its outbreak in mid- February, the country saw more than 5,000 cases in a single day. As of April 17, the Chinese health authorities had acknowledged over 83, 7546 cases and 4,636 deaths, since March the country as seen a remarkable slow down, but while things were slowing down in China, the outbreak started picking up on the rest of the world. There are now confirmed cases in at least 200 countries and territories. Outside of China, the US has yielded the highest number of the covid- 19, there are also cases in Nigeria.

Nigeria was confirmed with the first case of corona virus in the sub-Saharan Africa. The patient was said to be an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and flew into the commercial city of Lagos from Milan on 25th February, at first the authorities reported that he is stable with no serious symptoms and is being treated at a hospital in a city but many Nigerians failed to believe this story. The Health authorities are advising people to regularly and thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water, and use alcohol-based hand sanitizers, to avoid contacting the virus. Also the association has directed all its members to treat all cases as possible as the corona virus infection, DR Francis Faduyile told the BBC. Nigeria was highly praised for its effort of being able to arrest the Ebola outbreak of 2014 which killed a lot of individuals.

Due to the flamboyant spread of the virus in Nigeria, the Nigeria government placed a total lockdown, in all the parts of the country. Many Nigerians have expressed mixed reactions over the decision of President Buhari during a national broadcast by locking down the country so as to control the spread of the coronavirus. The majority of the respondent agree that the extension is a child of necessity and sacrifice that must be paid, they also appeal to the Federal Government and the 36 governors to earnestly put measures in places that would see the country out of the economic and social quagmire the lockdown will engender while also providing palliative.

The Deputy National Chairman of the People’s Democratic party South west zone, said it though it hurts, it is a decision we must all support the government to achieve it. He appealed to Nigerians, especially the politicians not to politicize the issue of the Covid-19 otherwise we will all be at risk, as he said this is eye opener to the political leaders to do the needful and the electorate to vote in the right choices.

Also the Nigerian government has threatened to close private healthcare centers and hospitals caught secretly treating coronavirus patients. Some wealthy people are ignoring protocol by seeking private care instead of contacting the Centre for Disease control.

To enforce the stay-at-home order of the various governments following the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic security agents from relevant government agencies with the police as the lead agency have been deployed for this purpose.

The lock down activity has led to a lot of Nigerians complaining about the issue and being blinded to the fact that the government is embarking on the lock down for the good of the country at large. But looking at it from both views that of the common man and that of the government, the common man in Nigeria leave in abstract poverty and this lock down isn’t helping at all, the government isn’t providing food for its citizens as the citizens keep complaining and taken up various un meaningful challenges on the social media to acquire money.

However, in a display of high- handedness, some policemen were seen in a video that went viral, destroying goods in some parts of the country. Figures released early last week show that they have killed more Nigerians during the period than the coronavirus scourge. The security agents are also taking it too far in their way of enforcing the lockdown.

In Kano, the second largest city is also on a lock down. Poverty and religion are the main issues at play, with some saying obeying the government’s stay- at- home order will mean dying of hunger at home. A citizen was heard complaining about the fact his wife gave birth yesterday and he is locked up at home instead of going to look for food for her and the baby with no expectations of help from anyone as he feels nothing could be worse than that. Also one of the respected clerics in Kano told the BBC, that he is against the closures of Mosque by the government because in his opinion that won’t help solve the coronavirus problem.

Some are against the lock down and feel it is not enough, and even want to involve the richest man in Africa Aliko Dangote who hails from Kano state to step in and help. Many citizens complain about the lock down as they say they have families to feed, another said the government kept us at home, what do they want us to do, hunger virus is worse than Corona virus. Some still say they isn’t a need for the lock down because they feel it is not in Nigeria as they feel the government is lying.

Lastly, the effect of the lock down, has brought confusion to the country, as the government has made a good move to curtail the virus but has not made any move on providing for their citizens. As new forms of complains are placed on the social media every day, students are also not left out of this. They are left in the government’s hand on when they resume and continue with their learning as all their learning is put on a hold.